

To: Andrea Lachance, Chair
Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department
From: Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department Personnel Committee
Date: March 6, 2009
Re: Reappointment of Dr. Kimberly Rombach, Assistant Professor

The Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department Personnel Committee unanimously recommends **Dr. Kimberly Rombach** for a **one-year reappointment as Assistant Professor**. Dr. Rombach will be reviewed for continuing appointment in the 2009-2010 academic year, hence the limitation on her reappointment term.

Teaching

In her teaching philosophy, Dr. Rombach shares with the reader her views of *teaching* as “an intellectual engagement” and “an interactive synthesis of theory and practice.” She believes that in a classroom “we are a community of learners” where “all contributions are valuable.” Dr. Rombach's portfolio provides evidence of how she strives to make her philosophy a reality.

Dr. Rombach has taught a variety of courses during the past years, performing at the highest level in each of them. The average of the Course Teaching Evaluations (CTEs) in each of these courses was around 4.8. Qualitative evaluations -- students' comments -- show student satisfaction in all aspects: they value the rigorous content and meaningful tasks, her teaching style, and her fairness and compassion. They share the feeling that in Dr. Rombach's class they felt part of a community of learners.

Dr. Rombach has challenged herself by designing and implementing two online courses during the spring 2008 semester. Previous to teaching the courses, she investigated various aspects of the online approach that could make hers successful. For example, she met with a student who had taken online courses to understand the dynamics of such an approach, and she spent time with SUNY Cortland technological support staff to get resources and online teaching tools. This preparation and her careful implementation have made her online teaching a positive learning experience for the students.

Scholarship

Since her last reappointment, Dr. Rombach has published two papers; one in 2007 and one in 2008. Both papers are based on her experiences as an Assistant Professor in the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department.

It is important to highlight, though, that Dr. Rombach's presentations and publications (in press and in preparation), and her grant work demonstrate her continued interest in teaching and learning in inclusive classrooms. She has researched preservice teachers' dispositions and how they obtain the preparation to teach in inclusive classrooms. She has researched general elementary educators' views on inclusive education and the obstacles for the successful implementation. In addition, Dr. Rombach has drawn attention to parents' views on disabilities.

For the past year, Dr. Rombach has worked in collaboration with Dr. David Smukler, Assistant Professor in the department of Foundations and Social Advocacy at SUNY Cortland. They have proposed and been awarded a Professional Development School grant funded by a partnership of SUNY Cortland and the Cortland City School District. The project proposes an innovative model to provide common placements for pairs of a general elementary education student teacher and a special education student teacher. The project is in its first year of implementation.

In the fall 2007 semester, Dr. Rombach was awarded an external grant through the New York Higher Education Center for Systems Change. The funds come from the New York State Department of Education and the United States Department of Education. Dr. Rombach and Dr. Susan Stratton serve as co-liaisons for the Regional Mid-State Taskforce, whose goals are to improve preservice teacher programs to better prepare candidates to teach in inclusive classrooms, and to support in-service teachers for the new challenge. This scholarly activity allows Dr. Rombach to reach out to university professors, researchers, teachers, and support staff from different institutions and schools and the New York State Education Department.

We believe that Dr. Rombach's scholarly activities demonstrate a strong development of the sustained research agenda necessary for long-term contributions to the profession.

Service

Dr. Rombach excels in the area of service at all levels in the College and in the professional community. In her portfolio, she not only lists the service activities she has been involved in, but she also reflects on what she has learned from each of the experiences.

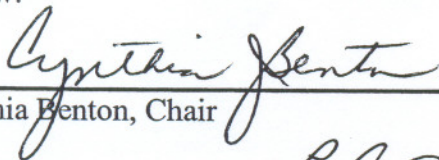
During the past years, Dr. Rombach has continued to serve on several committees in the Childhood/ Early Childhood Education Department and on committees at the College level. She has been and continues to be a member of the Department Personnel Committee, the Chair's Advisory Council, the Research and Technology Committee, and the Master of Science in Teaching (MST) Program Coordinator. Providing this service as coordinator of the MST program is a challenging endeavor in which she reviews materials for the selection and acceptance of candidates, and advises and supports them throughout the program. Dr. Rombach keeps in touch with instructors to ensure that candidates successfully graduate from the program.

At the college level, Dr. Rombach continues to serve as a member of the Faculty Development Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Graduate Coordinator's Committee and the College Scholarship Committee.

In addition, Dr. Rombach has also served at the national and international levels in the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and as a reviewer for publishers of educational materials.

The most recent professional service that Dr. Rombach has embarked on is as the Co-liaison of the New York Mid-State Regional Taskforce on Quality Inclusive Schooling. This service to the Central New York educational community simultaneously demonstrates her development as a promising scholar.

Considering Dr. Rombach's continued successes in teaching, scholarship and service as an Assistant Professor, we strongly support her reappointment for the year prior to her continuing appointment review.



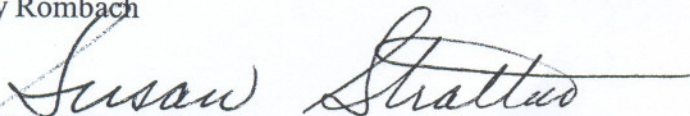
Cynthia Benton, Chair



Susana Davidenko

ABSTENTION

Kimberly Rombach



Susan Stratton